

Amendments to the Claims:

1-11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) The mechanism of claim 22, wherein the web component is attached to the folded-over portion of the substrate.

13. (Original) The mechanism of claim 12, wherein the fold line of the substrate is generally perpendicular to a length direction of the substrate.

14. (Original) The mechanism of claim 13, wherein web component is attached to the core component such that a length direction of the web component is generally perpendicular to the fold line of the substrate.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) The mechanism of claim 22, wherein the core component further comprises a double-sided adhesive tape having one side adhered to the lower surface of the substrate, an opposite side of the double-sided adhesive tape being positioned to be attached to the core.

17. (Previously Presented) A mechanism to aid in startup of winding a web onto a winding core to form a roll of the web and to aid in subsequent splicing of the web during unwinding of the roll, the mechanism comprising:

a core component structured and arranged to attach to the core; and

a web component having a tail portion structured and arranged to attach to a tail end of a web and having a leading portion with adhesive disposed thereon and being releasably adhered to the core component with sufficient adhesive bonding strength to remain attached to the core component when winding tension is exerted between the core and the tail end of the web during startup of winding of the web onto the core to form a roll, yet the adhesive bonding strength being sufficiently low to allow the leading portion of the web component to detach from the core component at completion of unwinding of the roll such that the adhesive on the leading portion is

exposed for attachment to a leading end of another web being unwound from a new roll to splice the webs together, wherein the web component comprises a splicing tape having adhesive disposed on one side of the tape, the leading portion of the web component being folded beneath the tail portion so that the adhesive on the leading portion faces away from the tail portion, the leading portion being adhered to the core component.

18. (Original) The mechanism of claim 17, wherein the core component comprises a layer of release material disposed on the core so as to form a release surface to which the leading portion of the web component is releasably adhered.

19. (Original) The mechanism of claim 17, wherein the core component comprises a substrate having a core-attaching portion structured and arranged to attach to the core and a free end portion joined to the core-attaching portion, the free end portion extending out from the core when the core-attaching portion is attached to the core, the leading portion of the web component being releasably adhered to the free end portion.

20. (Previously Presented) A mechanism to aid in startup of winding a web onto a winding core to form a roll of the web and to aid in subsequent splicing of the web during unwinding of the roll, the mechanism comprising:

a core component structured and arranged to attach to the core; and

a web component having a tail portion structured and arranged to attach to a tail end of a web and having a leading portion with adhesive disposed thereon and being releasably adhered to the core component with sufficient adhesive bonding strength to remain attached to the core component when winding tension is exerted between the core and the tail end of the web during startup of winding of the web onto the core to form a roll, yet the adhesive bonding strength being sufficiently low to allow the leading portion of the web component to detach from the core component at completion of unwinding of the roll such that the adhesive on the leading portion is exposed for attachment to a leading end of another web being unwound from a new roll to splice the webs together, wherein the web component includes a splice-detection element that is detectable by a sensor.

21. (Original) The mechanism of claim 20, wherein the splice-detection element comprises a metal for detection by a metal-detecting sensor.

22. (Original) A mechanism to aid in startup of winding a web onto a winding core to form a roll of the web and to aid in subsequent splicing of the web during unwinding of the roll, the mechanism comprising:

a core component comprising a core-attaching portion structured and arranged to attach to the core and having a free end portion joined to the core-attaching portion, the free end portion extending out from the core when the core-attaching portion is attached to the core, the core component comprising a substrate having an upper surface and a lower surface, a layer of release material being disposed on the upper surface of the substrate, a portion of the substrate being folded over along a fold line such that the free end portion of the core component comprises two layers of the substrate and the core-attaching portion comprises one layer of the substrate, the layer of release material forming both opposite surfaces of the free end portion; and

a web component comprising an adhesive splicing tape structured and arranged to attach to a tail end of a web with a leading portion of the splicing tape extending out from the tail end of the web, the leading portion being adhered to the free end portion of the core component with sufficient adhesive bonding strength to remain attached to the free end portion when winding tension is exerted between the core and the tail end of the web during startup of winding of the web onto the core to form a roll, yet the release material on the free end portion allowing the leading portion of the splicing tape to detach from the core component at completion of unwinding of the roll such that the leading portion extending from the tail end of the web is exposed for attachment to a leading end of another web being unwound from a new roll to splice the webs together.

23. (Original) The mechanism of claim 22, wherein the core component is structured and arranged such that the folded-over portion of the substrate is free to unfold when the splicing tape is pulled in a direction away from the fold line at completion of unwinding, whereby the splicing tape and folded-over portion of the substrate are placed in relative orientations favoring peeling apart thereof.

24. (Currently Amended) A method for unwinding and splicing a web, comprising the steps of:

providing a roll of the web wound about a winding core, a tail end of the web being attached to the winding core with a two-component mechanism having a core component attached directly to an outer surface of the core and a web component attached to the tail end, the web component being releasably attached to a leading portion of the web component that projects out from the tail end of the web, the leading portion of the web component having an adhesive thereon, the adhesive being attached to and covered by the web component;

unwinding the web from the roll until the tail end of the web is advanced away from the core to cause the web component to detach from the core component and thereby expose the adhesive on the leading portion of the web component; and

splicing the tail end of the web to a leading end of a second web by attaching the leading end to the adhesive on the leading portion of the web component;

wherein the core component is provided in the form of a substrate affixed to the core and having a free end portion that remains unattached to the core, the free end portion having a release material disposed thereon for releasable attachment to the leading portion of the web component;

and wherein the free end portion of the core component is provided to have a folded-over portion of the substrate, the folded-over portion defining a core-facing surface on which the release material is disposed, the folded-over portion lying between the core and another portion of the substrate that is attached to the folded-over portion along a fold line, and wherein during the unwinding step the folded-over portion is pulled by the web component as the ~~tail~~ tail end of the web is advanced away from the core such that the folded-over portion unfolds about the fold line and thereby places the ~~fold-over~~ folded-over portion in a more advantageous orientation relative to the web component for peeling apart the web component and folded-over portion.

25-27. (Canceled)

28. (Previously Presented) An assembly facilitating winding of a web into a roll and splicing of the web during unwinding, comprising:

a winding core having a cylindrical outer surface;
a core component attached directly to the outer surface of the winding core; and
a splicing tape having adhesive disposed on one side thereof, a portion of the splicing tape being adhered to the core component;

wherein the core component and the adhesive of the splicing tape are structured and arranged such that the splicing tape adheres to the core component in releasable fashion;

wherein the core component comprises a substrate having a core-attaching portion attached to the outer surface of the core and a free end portion unaffixed to the core;

and wherein an end region of the free end portion of the substrate is folded beneath the remainder of the free end portion and the splicing tape is releasably adhered to the end region.

29-30. (Canceled)

31. (Original) The assembly of claim 28, wherein the core component comprises a layer of release material disposed on the outer surface of the winding core.